

What is Good Cause?

Good Cause is a term used to ask that you not have to cooperate with the Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) in the establishment of paternity or a support order, or enforcement or modification of a support order and still receive your welfare benefits. A Good Cause claim may be made with your local DCSE or your local TANF office. Until it is investigated and approved you must cooperate with all requirements of the welfare and child support programs. The reasons for “Good Cause” are reviewed every six months.

When can I claim Good Cause?

You can claim Good Cause when:

- 1. You believe that you, your child(ren), or the caretaker relative of the child(ren) may be in danger of physical harm from the non-custodial parent.
- 2. Legal proceedings for adoption of your child(ren) are pending before a court.
- 3. You have been working for less than 90 days with a public or licensed private social agency on whether to allow the child(ren) to be adopted.
- 4. You became pregnant because you were sexually assaulted.

How do I establish Good Cause?

- 1. You may request your local DCSE office to provide you with an original “Claim of Good Cause for Non-Cooperation” form. You may also pick up forms for written statements from other people with personal knowledge of your situation as well.
- 2. Fill out and notarize the original “Claim of Good Cause for Non-Cooperation” form. Be sure to make copies of any evidence you have to prove your claim, as you will need them when you turn in your form. Also, be sure to have your written statement signed and notarized. Then return these documents

to your local DCSE office. There will be a notary at the office if you have not already had your forms notarized.

3. The Division of Child Support Enforcement will then request an investigation to determine whether your circumstances qualify as Good Cause for Non-Cooperation in Child Support Enforcement. The investigation may take several weeks, depending upon how much information you have presented to the DCSE.

4. If your claim of Good Cause is approved after the investigation, you will qualify to receive all of the benefits of an approved Good Cause claim. If your claim is not approved but you have come to all of your scheduled appointments and hearings with the DCSE, you will be sent a notice that gives you 14 days from the date it was mailed to respond with the information the DCSE has requested or set up an appointment with the DCSE in order to cooperate. If you have not come to all of your scheduled appointments and hearings and you have not responded to the 14-day notice, the Division of Child Support Enforcement will sanction you for non-cooperation. For more information about sanctioning, see the pamphlet entitled “A Custodial Parent’s Guide to Sanctioning.”

What evidence do I need to claim Good Cause?

You will need to give some evidence to your caseworker to support your claim. If you cannot provide acceptable evidence, it may be possible to establish Good Cause based on an investigation that your caseworker can request. Some examples of acceptable evidence are:

1. Law enforcement, court, medical, criminal, psychological, social service or government records or other sworn statements from persons with personal knowledge of the circumstances that indicate that the non-custodial parent might inflict physical harm on the parent, child, or caretaker relative.

2. Court documents which indicate that legal proceedings for adoption are pending before a court of competent jurisdiction.

3. Records from a public or licensed private social services agency showing that placing the child (*for whom support is sought*) up for adoption is under consideration.

4. Law enforcement, court, medical, criminal, psychological, social service or governmental records or sworn statements from persons with personal knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the conception of the child that indicate the child was conceived as a result of sexual assault.

I am afraid that the non-custodial parent may harm my children or me, but I need welfare now. When can I start receiving welfare after I claim Good Cause?

You can receive welfare while your case is under review. However, if you claim Good Cause for Non-Cooperation for Child Support Enforcement and your claim is not approved, you can be sanctioned for not cooperating with the DCSE if you do not provide the information the DCSE requests.

To find out more about sanctioning, see the pamphlet entitled “A Custodial Parent’s Guide to Sanctioning.”

Is there a place other than my local Division of Child Support Enforcement office that can help me establish Good Cause?

Yes. You can claim good cause at your local welfare (TANF) office.

Do I ever have to renew my Good Cause claim once it is approved?

Your Good Cause claim will expire unless you are a victim of sexual assault or if your child has been adopted. If your Good Cause claim was approved by the DCSE, your claim must be renewed every six

months if you wish to continue to claim Good Cause for Non-Cooperation. If your Good Cause claim was approved by TANF, your claim must be renewed every six months. Your claim will be investigated before it is renewed.

What benefits do I receive when my Good Cause claim is approved?

If your approved claim for Good Cause is due to possible physical harm to you as the parent, to the child for whom support is sought, to the caretaker relative with whom the child is living then:

1. The address and social security numbers of you and your child(ren) will not be included in any court documents that must be filed for your case. Legal documents become public records after they are filed with the court. Your approved claim of Good Cause will require that we file legal documents without including your personal information.

2. Information about all child support cases in every state must be shared with the Federal Case Registry. Your approved claim of Good Cause will require that we withhold all of your personal information from the Federal Case Registry. This will prevent child support enforcement agencies in another state from getting information about where you or your child(ren) currently live.

If your approved claim for Good Cause is due to a pending adoption, or because your child was conceived as a result of sexual assault:

You will be able to receive TANF benefits without cooperating with the Division of Child Support Enforcement in the establishment of paternity or a support order.

Can my local Division of Child Support Enforcement office help me get an Order of Protection?

The Division of Child Support Enforcement offices cannot establish or enforce an Order of Protection or

Restraining Order. If you have been a victim or are a potential victim of domestic violence, you may call your local Clerk of the Court for information on where and how to establish an Order of Protection or Restraining Order.

Getting an Order of Protection

- 1. Call 602-506-SELF (7353) to learn about an Order of Protection and Injunction Against Harassment.
- 2. Call the Police to get an immediate Order of Protection.

SHELTER SERVICES:

If you need shelter services call the Domestic Violent Shelter Referral at 1-800-799-7739. If you are in an emergency situation, contact your local Police Department or call 911.

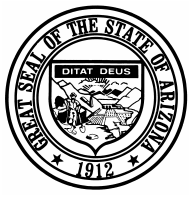
Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Department must make a reasonable accommodation to allow a person with a disability to take part in a program, service, or activity. For example, this means that if necessary, the Department must provide sign language interpreters for people who are deaf, a wheelchair accessible location, or enlarged print materials. It also means that the Department will take any other reasonable action that allows you to take part in and understand a program or activity, including making reasonable changes to an activity. If you believe that you will not be able to understand or take part in a program or activity because of your disability, please let us know of your disability needs in advance if at all possible. This document is available in alternative formats by contacting (602) 252-4045.

LOCAL AREA CHILD SUPPORT OFFICES :

Apache County DCSE Flagstaff Office 2323 N. Walgreen’s St., #100 Flagstaff, AZ 86004 Phone: (928) 527-0924 (800) 517-7365	Greenlee County Safford DCSE Office 1938 Thatcher Blvd. Safford, AZ 85546 Phone: (928) 428-6648
Cochise County Child Support Services of AZ Warren Plaza 7 Bisbee Road, Suite D Bisbee, AZ 85603 Phone: (520) 432-3161 Toll Free (866)358-0616	La Paz County Attorney’s Office P.O. Box 809 1121 Geronimo Parker, AZ 85344 Phone: (928) 669-6469
Coconino County Flagstaff DCSE Office 2323 N. Walgreen’s St., #100 Flagstaff, AZ 86004 Phone: (928) 527-0924 (800) 517-7365	Maricopa County Offices:
Gila County Attorney’s Office Child Support Division 157 South Broad St. Globe, AZ 85501 Phone: (928) 425-4464	Mailing address for all Maricopa County Offices: P.O. Box 40458 Phoenix, AZ 85067
Graham County Safford DCSE Office 1938 Thatcher Blvd. Safford, AZ 85546 Phone: (928) 428-6648	DCSE North/South Region Office 2222 West Encanto Phoenix, AZ 85009
	DCSE East Region Office 1255 West Baseline, Suite 258 Mesa, AZ 85202
	DCSE West Region Office 8910 N. 43 rd Ave. Suite 105 Phoenix, AZ 85302

All Maricopa County Office Phone Numbers: Phone: (602) 252-4045 (800) 882-4151	Santa Cruz Child Support Services of Arizona 1860 North State Dr., Suite 6 Nogales, AZ 85621 Phone: (520) 761-4787
Mohave County Kingman DCSE Office 519 East Beale St., Suite 110 Kingman, AZ 86401 Phone: (928) 753-3134	Yavapai County Child Support Services of Arizona 122 North Cortez St., Suite 306 Prescott, AZ 86301 Phone: (928) 771-1090
Navajo County Attorney’s Office P.O. Box 668 121 W. Buffalo Holbrook, AZ 86025 Phone: (928) 524-4730	Yavapai Child Support Services of Arizona 1695 E. Cottonwood St., # A Cottonwood, AZ 86326 Phone: (928) 639-3131
Navajo Nation Department of Child Support Services P.O. Box 160 Chinle, AZ 86503 Phone: (520) 674-2300	Yuma County Yuma DCSE Office 1310 South 3 rd Ave. Yuma, AZ 85364 Phone: (928) 539-1998
Pima County Tucson DCSE Office 7202 E. Rosewood, Suite 100 Tucson, AZ 85710 Phone: (520) 622-7000	
Pinal County Attorney’s Office P.O. Box 608 30 N. Florence St., #D Florence, AZ 85232 Phone: (520) 868-6615	

Department of Economic Security
Division of Child Support
Enforcement



A CUSTODIAL
PARENT’S GUIDE TO
UNDERSTANDING
A GOOD CAUSE
CLAIM

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program
Disponible en español.

CSE-1053APAMNA (11-02)